

Infant Baptism.” I deny that St. Augustine (or Austin) *did* anything for the prevalence of Infant Baptism. Show us a single passage from his writings in which he *endeavors* to *enforce* the practice. He everywhere, as I shall presently show, takes it for granted that Infant Baptism prevailed always, everywhere, and among all. You say on page 80, “That it,” Infant Baptism, “was never sanctioned as a tenet of faith by any council till Augustine procured it to be done in the Council of Carthage, A. D. 418.”

If you mean by “sanctioned,” acknowledged and approved, such assertion would be so very far from being correct, that you have admitted yourself that Infant Baptism was recognized in the first council of Carthage, A. D. 253 (153). If you mean by sanctioned, decreed, you might have gone further and declared that it was never decreed by any Council, and St. Austin employs this very absence of all conciliar decree to show the apostolicity of the practice: “That which the Universal Church maintains and was not instituted by councils, but always continued, is most rightly believed to be delivered by the apostles’ authority.” “The custom of our mother the Church, in baptizing little children, is by no means to be scorned, nor yet to be accounted superfluous, nor at all to be believed, if there were not apostolical tradition for it.” And speaking of the Pelagians, he says: “They grant that little children are to be baptized, because they cannot contradict the authority of the Universal Church, delivered by the Lord and His Apostles.” (See Hammond’s Baptizing of Infants, § 45, B) . . . . I have inserted